

February 15, 2017

To the esteemed members of the Connecticut State Legislature's Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to express my shock and dismay regarding Governor Malloy's proposed budget, particularly the redistribution of funds from most of the towns in Connecticut to several cities. This budget must not be permitted to pass.

I write to you from East Hampton. We are a smaller town that is extremely fiscally conservative. We are currently working to plan our education budget for 2017-18 and we are struggling to ask the town for any increase at all. We cannot fathom the devastation that would be brought to bear if we were expected to shoulder the burden Governor Malloy proposes by shifting state obligations to our town and yanking funds that the state should provide to support our schools.

Further, we believe that we are being unfairly punished in the governor's budget scheme. Money taken from our kids' schools where every penny is pinched already will be lavished upon Connecticut cities where their education and municipal budgets have been irresponsibly managed for years. What kind of lesson is this to our children? Spend beyond your means and you will be rewarded? Adding insult to injury, the funds may actually be used by the cities for non-education purposes. This is a classic case of redistribution of wealth, orchestrated as a political ploy on the backs of the smaller towns of our great state.

The governor's proposal would be absolutely devastating to the town of East Hampton, as well as the vast majority of our sister towns in Connecticut and must not be allowed to pass. Please do everything in your power to stop this incredibly unfair and inequitable scheme from becoming reality.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Nancy Oakley
East Hampton, CT